

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

LEAFLETS
of
POPULAR INFORMATION

No. 20

June, 1939

GODETIA DUDLEYANA

DUDLEY'S GODETIA

Prepared
by
RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN
of the
NATIVE PLANTS OF CALIFORNIA

Santa Ana Canyon
Orange County
California

GODETIA DUDLEYANA

DUDLEY'S GODETIA

Onagraceae

Evening-Primrose Family

An erect annual 1-2½ ft. high, sometimes simple or little branched when crowded or over a foot across when solitary. Herbage light green, the stems sometimes reddish, inconspicuously hairy (minutely puberulent). Leaves alternate, the largest about 2 in. long, ½ in. wide, narrowly lanceolate to spatulate, tapering to a petiole ¼-½ in. long. Flowers borne in the upper axils, but mainly aggregated on the terminal portions of the stems, buds drooping, but as the flowers open they become erect. Calyx lobes 4, but remaining united and pushed to one side as the flower opens. Petals 4, about 1 in. long by 5/8 in. wide, cuneate-obovate, with a truncate apex and an abruptly contracted base which constitutes a very short claw, pale orchid to pink, usually nearly alike on both surfaces except that the basal portion of the inner surface is flecked with reddish-purple dots. Stamens 8, purple, in 2 series, the 4 outer about ½ inch long, the 4 inner only ¼ in. long. Style about ½ in. long, with 4 hairy stigma lobes each about 1/8 in. long. Hypanthium (the tube between insertion of petals and summit of ovary) bearing a ring of white hairs on inner surface at its summit. Ovary 4-celled, developing into a slender, 8-ribbed, rounded capsule about 1 in. long, containing numerous small brownish seeds. At maturity the capsules split at the summit and the seeds are scattered only tardily.

The genus Godetia was first proposed in 1835 by Spach who honored C. H. Godet, Swiss botanist. Spach transferred a number of species previously described under the related genus Oenothera, the first of these being Oenothera purpurea, described in 1796 from plants grown in England from seeds collected on the northwest coast of North America. About 25 species of Godetia are known from North and South America, of which about 15 are found in California. Several kinds have been in cultivation nearly 100 years and from them many splendid horticultural forms have been developed. The California species are abundant throughout the foothills and valleys but do not grow at high elevations nor on the deserts. They flower in late spring, but in some moist areas in northern California continue until fall.

Godetia Dudleyana was described in 1904 by Prof. L. R. Abrams, of Stanford University, who honored Dr. W. R. Dudley, first professor of systematic botany at Stanford. Abrams' specimens had been obtained on the slopes near Little Santa Anita Canyon in the San Gabriel Mts., Los Angeles Co. In Southern California the species is found from the San Jacinto Mts. northward to the Liebre and Santa Ynez Ranges, but is not particularly plentiful. On the west slope of the Sierra Nevada it extends from Kern Co. to the Yosemite region, where it is abundant in a narrow belt at the lower borders of the Yellow Pine forests. It comes into bloom in late May and June after the lower foothills have begun to dry. Its small but exceedingly abundant flowers brighten the open woodland areas with their delicate color.

We have grown Dudley's Godetia for a number of years at the Garden from seeds obtained in 1933 near Miramonte, Fresno Co. Under cultivation the plants are larger and produce more flowers than in the wild. Large well grown plants will often have 50-100 flowers open at one time, so that their comparatively small size is more than offset by the mass of color produced which literally hides the slender stems and small leaves.

Seeds of Dudley's Godetia may be planted in rows or broadcast from late fall until early spring and will produce their flowers in May. If watered the plants will produce flowers for about two months. The seeds mature in July and are easily harvested by pulling the entire plants and allowing them to dry on trays or canvas. The hard capsules need to be crushed to insure obtaining a good percentage of the seed crop.

Godetia Dudleyana with its delicate orchid or pinkish flowers is not only a splendid garden plant but it also makes a fine cut flower. Bouquets will keep for several days and are usually best the second or third day, since the well formed buds will open after cutting, thus making a greater display of color. Like other Godetias, the flowers of this species tend to close at night, but even then are very attractive.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN
Of The Native Plants of California.

Established 1927

In Memory of John W. Bixby

- o O o -

Purpose: A scientific institution devoted
to the growth and study of the native plants
of California for their botanical, horticult-
ural and popular features.

- o O o -

MAIL ADDRESS

R. F. D., Anaheim, California

- o O o -

Reissued without change of text, June, 1941